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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/807,726	05/21/2001	Ian Sidgwick	000026.00028	4034

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EXAMINER

BOYER, CHARLES I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1751

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2002

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS-7

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/807,726

Applicant(s)
Sidgwick et al

Examiner
Charles Boyer

Art Unit
1751



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 21, 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 6 20) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 18-24, 26, and 30-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Holdt et al, US 4,578,207.

Holdt et al teach a toilet cleansing tablet comprising two separate regions (see abstract). The two regions A and B are separately extruded and then combined into a single element (col. 2, lines 30-35). An example of such a composition comprises a tablet containing a surfactant and bleach in region A and a surfactant and perfume in region B (col. 3, example 1). Another example contains a surfactant, bleach, and bleach compatible pine oil fragrance in region A and a surfactant and dye in region B (col. 4, lines 10-25). As this reference meets all material limitations of the claims at hand, the reference is anticipatory.

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3. Claims 18-24, 26, and 30-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Holdt et al, US 4,683,072.

Holdt et al teach a toilet cleansing tablet comprising two separate regions (see abstract). The two regions A and B are separately extruded and then combined into a single element (col. 2, lines 33-40). An example of such a composition comprises a tablet containing a surfactant and bleach in region A and a surfactant, perfume, and dye in region B (col. 3, example 1). Another example contains a surfactant, bleach, and bleach compatible pine oil fragrance in region A and a surfactant and dye in region B (col. 4, lines 20-33). As this reference meets all material limitations of the claims at hand, the reference is anticipatory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 18-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barford et al, US 4,460,490.

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Barford et al teach a toilet cleansing block containing a tablet comprising a bleaching agent embedded in a shaped body which is a slow dissolving cleaning composition (see abstract). An example of such a composition comprises a tablet containing disodium dichloroisocyanurate, embedded in an extruded shaped body comprising 5% dye and 8% perfume (col. 12, example 22). Note that both the shaped body and the bleach tablet may be formed by an extrusion process (col. 8, lines 5-9). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to prepare the cleansing blocks of Barford et al by an extrusion process and so meet the material limitations of the claims at hand, as such a process is contemplated by Barford et al. With respect to present claim 29, note that bleach activators may be present in the compositions of Barford et al (col. 8, lines 1-4) and the term "portion" does not have the same meaning as "region" in claim 18. Therefore the bleach and bleach activators do not necessarily have to be in separate regions of the lavatory block.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Boyer whose telephone number is (703) 308-2524. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If reasonable attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta, can be reached on (703) 308-4708. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3599.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

Charles Boyer

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles Boyer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the printed name "Charles Boyer".

February 20, 2002